

## Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ROBIN WRIGHT BY-LINER WASHINGTON  
POST WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 HEADED "VORSTER AND SMITH HOLD  
TALKS ON KISSINGER'S AFRICA SHUTTLE."

2. SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER AND HIS  
RHODESIAN COUNTERPART, IAN SMITH--HEADS OF THE ONLY REMAIN-  
ING WHITE GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA--HELD FIVE HOURS OF TALKS  
TODAY REGARDED AS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BEFORE SMITH FLEW BACK TO  
RHODESIA MERELY SAID THE TALKS WERE "FULL AND FRANK" BUT  
GAVE NO DETAILS.

4. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT VORSTER GAVE SMITH  
DETAILS OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S  
PROPOSALS TO END RHODESIA'S 11-YEAR-OLD CONSTITUTIONAL  
CRISIS BY PROVIDING FOR BLACK-MAJORITY RULE--SOMETHING  
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SMITH HAS STAUNCHLY RESISTED.

5. VORSTER MET WITH KISSINGER IN ZURICH LAST WEEK AND BOTH ARE TRYING TO LINE UP SUPPORT FOR A PLAN TO END THE

ESCALATING CONFRONTATIONS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA (SOUTHWEST AFRICA) BEFORE CONFERRING AGAIN THIS WEEKEND IN PRETORIA.

6. KISSINGER ARRIVED IN TANZANIA TODAY TO BEGIN A ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA IS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE TALKS BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY NATION IN A POSITION TO PRESSURE RHODESIA INTO AGREEING TO A RAPID TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE.

7. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT THE MAIN TOPIC OF TODAY'S TALKS WAS SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF THE REBELLIOUS SOUTHERN AFRICAN COLONY. IT IS THE ONLY POWERFUL TRUMP CARD LEFT IN THE COMPLEX POLITICAL GAME BEING PLAYED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

8. RHODESIA IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR AID, TRANSPORTATION OUTLETS, AND EXPORTS AND IMPORTS--INCLUDING MILITARY SUPPLIES INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN THE RAPIDLY ESCALATING GUERRILLA WAR. IF THE VORSTER GOVERNMENT REDUCED THESE LINKS OR WITHDREW THEM COMPLETELY, RHODESIA WOULD BE PARALYZED.

9. THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE RHODESIANS VIEW THE THREAT OF A CUTOFF WAS REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE THREE OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING SMITH WAS MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ROGER HAWKINS.

10. THE RHODESIAN LEADER DID NOT, HOWEVER, BRING WITH HIM FOREIGN MINISTER P.K. VAN DER BYL, ALTHOUGH HIS SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTERPART WAS PRESENT AT THE TALKS.

11. LAST WEEK VAN DER BYL, A HARDLINER WHO IS REGARDED AS BEING OUT OF FAVOR WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WAS FIRED AS DEFENSE MINISTER BY SMITH ON THE GROUND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS A FULL-TIME JOB WITH THE BURGEONING DIPLOMACY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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12. ALTHOUGH VORSTER REAFFIRMED LAST NIGHT THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT APPLY SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA, THE VAST MAJORITY OF RHODESIA'S BUSINESS MEN ARE CONVINCED THAT A RECENT SLOWDOWN IN TRAFFIC OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IS A DELIBERATE MOVE BY SOUTH AFRICA.

13. AS OBSERVERS HERE HAVE LONG SPECULATED WOULD HAPPEN

WHEN "THE SQUEEZE" WAS APPLIED, THE SLOWDOWN HAS AFFECTED MAINLY THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, AND NOT VITAL MINERALS.

14. ANALYSTS HERE CONCEDE THAT IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT VORSTER WOULD BE ABLE TO BLOCK RHODESIAN TRAFFIC ALTOGETHER

OR HALT MILITARY SUPPLIES TO SALISBURY--BECAUSE OF HIS OWN CONSERVATIVE CONSTITUENCY BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WOULD BE SETTING A PRECEDENT THAT SOMEDAY COULD BE USED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF.

15. THEY ALSO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT VORSTER HAS PLEDGED HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR AND COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. PEACE PLAN FOR A SWIFT TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE, WHICH CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH CONCRETE PRESSURE ON SALISBURY. AND RHODESIA'S SANCTIONED ECONOMY IS THE ONLY VULNERABLE POINT FOR PRESSURE.

16. THE RHODESIANS HAVE STUBBORNLY REFUSED--SINCE DECLARING UNILATERAL INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN IN 1965--TO ESCALATE THE PACE. THUS OBSERVERS SUGGEST THE NEW APPROACH IS A FIRMER "CARROT"--U.S. AID AND GUARANTEES FOR RHODESIA'S 270,000 MINORITY WHITES--AND "STICK"--SOUTH AFRICAN THREATS OF A POSSIBLE CUTBACK ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT--TO FORCE THE RHODESIAN HAND.

17. THE NEXT STEP AFTER TODAY'S MEETING IS FOR SMITH TO TAKE THE PROPOSALS BACK TO HIS OWN CONSTITUENCY IN RHODESIA WEDNESDAY WHEN THE THREE-DAY RHODESIAN FRONT PARTY CONGRESS OPENS IN UMTALI, ON THE TENSE BORDER WITH MOZAMBIQUE.

18. SMITH IS EXPECTED TO OUTLINE THE U.S. PLAN--PLUS A  
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FEW NEW PROPOSALS OF HIS OWN--AT A CLOSED SESSION WEDNESDAY, PROVIDING THE FIRST INSIGHT ON HOW HE ENVISIONS REACTING TO OR COUNTERING THE HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMACY THAT IS PUSHING FOR RAPID BLACK RULE IN RHODESIA. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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